

6 Discussion and Future Outlook

1. High correlations in the data base indicate a redundancy of information. This redundancy in the "Resemis" table is predominantly caused by the way the table is constructed. The examination of possible correlations in the raw data in the constituting tables is planned for future work.
2. In this case, the causes of the redundancy can be found in the elaborate documentation that is available for the raw data base. Measuring the redundancy of the Resemis table mainly has a heuristic value. For the evaluation of other data bases for which documentation is lacking or incomplete, estimating the redundancy will be essential.
3. The problem of evaluating the information content of a data base is equivalent to multivariate factor analysis. The processes are interpreted as the independent variables and the environmental data as the dependent variables. Future analysis of LCA data bases might well benefit from the techniques developed in factor analysis.
4. Finding the redundancies, it might be possible to identify the dominant processes containing most information and, by implication, the processes most suited for a quick-and-dirty LCA. In the terms of factor analysis, finding the dominant processes is equivalent to finding the principal components, that is the eigenvectors with the highest eigenvalue.

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8 References

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Conference Announcements

The Second International Conference on LCA in Agriculture, Agro-Industry and Forestry will be held at the Hotel Palace in Brussels, Belgium, on December 3-4, 1998. The first day will focus on the potential uses of Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) in agriculture, agro-industry, biotechnology and forestry. Methodological problems which arise when LCA is applied in these areas will be discussed. The second day will focus on case studies and the use of LCA in decision making processes.

The meeting is open, and abstracts for platform and poster presentations are invited. Abstracts should be written in Eng-

lish and not exceed 300 words. They should be sent to the address below.

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First Announcement

9th Annual Meeting of SETAC-Europe:

Quality of Life and Environment in Cultured Landscapes

University of Leipzig, Germany, May 25-29, 1999

Main Themes

Ecosystem Monitoring and Analysis
Environmental Hazard and Risk
Normative and Regulatory Strategies
Ecological Economy and Environmental Technology

The technical programme includes invited lectures addressing general aspects of the above-mentioned main themes, platform and poster sessions, short courses to provide educational opportunities, and special symposia discussing selected items like environmental consequences of the use of antibiotics, and spatial aspects

of exposure and risk assessment. In addition, an exhibition area will be available for presentations from industry, consultants, manufacturers and publishers.

Special emphasis will be given to translating scientific methods and results into practical tools that are needed for a sustainable development of societies on a regional and global scale. Both experimental and theoretical work is welcome for presentation and discussion, and the wide range of oral and poster sessions will address recent as well as traditional topics in the environmental sciences.